

Wildfire Mitigation Plan Addendum

May, 2007

After meeting on May 21, 2007, the Lemhi County Wild Land Fire Mitigation Planning Committee, consisting of Lynn Bennett, Bill Baer, Mike England, Robert Cope, and Karin Drnjevic, identification and prioritization of the following fuel reduction projects designed to protect communities and their essential infrastructure:

1. The Committee's top priority was deemed to have fuel reduction in the Gibbonsville area, particularly the Hughes Creek and Ditch Creek drainages. Additionally, continuing work in the Dahlonge Creek area remains as a top priority through its completion. In all these areas, fuel reduction is recommended to be done through a combination of commercial sales, mechanical thinning, and prescribed burning. This should be done on both private property and National Forest lands.
2. The Committee's second priority was identified as the Jesse Creek drainage abutting the City of Salmon. This area would be the top priority for the county, except for the fact that more than ninety percent in the drainage is an Inventoried Roadless Area, making commercial activity extremely difficult under the current Roadless Area rules. Fuel reduction on private property at the mouth of the drainage, however, is considered as a high priority. This should be done by mechanical thinning and handwork.
3. Third on the list was the continuation of the Williams Lake project. The federal land management agencies, for now, have completed their projects, but private land remains in need of treatment. Mechanical thinning is the treatment of choice. It was recommended that the property owners be responsible for the burning of piled waste after thinning. The future projects for National Forest lands fuels treatment may include commercial thinning, mechanical thinning and prescribed burning.
4. Sheep Creek was named as the fourth priority. This project has been in progress for several years, there still remains fuel treatments left to be done on National Forest lands and private property. There are some private lots without structures that contain an overload of hazardous fuel, threatening residences in the drainage. Mechanical and hand thinning should be done, as the only potential product would be firewood on private property.
5. The last prioritized fuel reduction project was considered to be the areas of Perreau Creek and Williams Creek, including the south fork of Williams Creek. No commercial product is present, making mechanical and hand thinning the treatment of choice on private property. National Forest lands fuels treatment may include commercial thinning, mechanical thinning and prescribed burning.

Additionally, two other items were identified as high priorities for the county. The WUI program manager, Karin Drnjevic, stated that a copy of the Crown Fire Risk Map, that the Forest Service has for the entire Salmon-Challis National Forest (including BLM and private lands) is a very important layer of information for firefighter safety and fire suppression planning, and would be very helpful to the Lemhi County. It was suggested that she contact Bill Wood (Forest Supervisor) to request the map.

Also, in order to assist the fire departments of Lemhi County, it was determined that the acquisition of the Red Zone software program, currently being utilized in other counties of the state, should be obtained for the Lemhi County, North Fork, Elk Bend, and Leadore Fire Departments. Any available funding for the program should be vigorously pursued.